GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4859
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2000
INDO-US TIES
P.R. KHUTE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to seek the cooperation of United States of America in the fields of energy and environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the other fields of cooperation at present between United States of America and India;

(d) the agreements signed in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken to strengthen Indo-US relations?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) During the visit of the US President to India in March 2000, the two sides agreed to establish a Joint Consultative Group on Clean Energy and Environment to foster greater bilateral co-operation and Government-to-Government dialogue, and further encourage public and private sector co-operation in these sectors. The first meeting of the Joint Consultative Group was held in Washington on 26-28 July 2000.
The Group decided to revive the Bilateral Energy Consultation and promote technology development projects for clean energy in India. It also agreed to continue discussions on environmental issues, including in the context of the ongoing multilateral negotiations, and work to establish collaborative relationships between US and Indian energy and environmental laboratories.During the visit of Prime Minister to Washington in September 2000, the two countries signed an MOU on Bilateral Energy Consultations and two Protocols of Intent on Capacity Building and on Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle Project.

(c) & (d) India and the United States are engaged in dialogue and cooperation in a number of other areas, including in international political and security matters, economics and commerce, science and technology, health, counter-terrorism and UN peacekeeping operations. The two sides are also currently discussing the structure and scope of bilateral dialogue on Afghanistan, agreed upon by the two sides during Prime Minister`s visit to the United States in September 2000.
The cooperation in these areas are being carried out through the bilateral forums that the two sides have created as part of the Dialogue Architecture agreed upon by Prime Minister and President Clinton to pursue the vision of the new relationship they had outlined in March 2000, and reaffirmed during Prime Minister`s visit to the United States.

(e) The two sides have agreed to work towards building a closer and qualitatively new relationship between the two countries. Towards this end, the two sides are engaged in regular and wide-ranging dialogue on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern. The dialogue is aimed at deepening mutual understanding and intensifying mutually beneficial cooperation in a broad range of areas. Both sides agree that President Clinton`s visit to India in March and Prime Minister`s visit to the United States in September contributed towards that goal.